

ABSTRACT

Methods and network interface systems are provided for transferring data between a host and a network using a shared memory, in which separate data transfer queues are employed for transfer of data of different priorities. For receive data, the network
5 interface scrutinizes the data and provides a corresponding entry in a receive data transfer queue of a particular priority according to the data. For transmit data, the network interface transmits data corresponding to entries in lower priority queues when all higher priority data has been transmitted or when a certain number of higher priority data frames have been transferred while a lower priority frame is waiting to be sent.